

ABSTRACT

A method for increasing bandwidth utilization of a transmission channel having a first bandwidth capacity and operative at a first transmission rate, the method including the steps of providing one or more input bit streams each having a transmission rate that does not exceed that of the first transmission rate, dividing the one or more input bit streams into a plurality of sub-streams, each having a bandwidth lower than the first bandwidth capacity, selecting a group of sub-streams out of the plurality of sub-streams which group has a combined bandwidth just lower than the first bandwidth capacity, carrying the selected group of sub-streams over the transmission channel, and assembling the selected group of sub-streams into an output bit stream.